

**SENATE JOURNAL
66TH LEGISLATURE
EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Helena, Montana
April 22, 2019

Senate Chambers
State Capitol

Senate convened at 5:00 p.m. President Sales presiding. Invocation by Senator Kary. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call. Thirty-eight members present. Senators Brown, Ellsworth, Fielder, Hinebauch, Hoven, Howard, Jacobson, McConnell, Osmundson, Phillips, Regier, and Vuckovich excused. Quorum present.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

April 18, 2019

Senator Scott Sales, President
Montana Senate
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

Dear President Sales:

On Thursday, April 18, 2019, I signed the following bills:

Senate Bill 130 - Salomon
Senate Bill 148 - Bennett
Senate Bill 150 - Bennett
Senate Bill 157 - Olszewski
Senate Bill 160 - McConnell
Senate Bill 163 - Fitzpatrick
Senate Bill 182 - Bogner
Senate Bill 212 - Webber
Senate Bill 223 - Jacobson
Senate Bill 226 - Vance
Senate Bill 275 - Olszewski
Senate Bill 288 - D. Brown
Senate Bill 292 - Webb
Senate Bill 295 - Richmond
Senate Bill 310 - Osmundson

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I have vetoed **Senate Bill 217** - Howard

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

April 18, 2019

The Honorable Greg Hertz
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

The Honorable Scott Sales
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Speaker Hertz and President Sales:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby **veto Senate Bill 217** (SB 217), "AN ACT REVISING THE TAXATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS; MODIFYING THE FEDERAL CALCULATION FOR TAXATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ON A STATE RETURN; AMENDING SECTION 15-30-2110, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

The budget I proposed to the Legislature was balanced, maintained a meaningful reserve and made targeted investments in education, infrastructure and critical services. It is the Constitutional obligation of the Legislature to pass a balanced budget, yet with 8 legislative days left, Republicans have bills totaling \$65 million of unfunded spending outside of HB 2, the state's primary budget bill.

Senate Bill 217 would have an immediate \$3 million negative impact in Fiscal Year 2019, increasing to more than a \$36 million impact over the course of the 2021-2022 biennium. A negative impact of this magnitude would jeopardize critical services that Montanans of all ages rely on, including low-income seniors.

Senate Bill 217 would almost double the exemption for social security income for certain tax filers. Although the sponsor said the intent of the bill was to benefit low-income seniors, SB 217 will disproportionately benefit seniors with higher incomes. The state has an obligation to care for our seniors, especially those living on fixed incomes. Senate Bill 217 could force cuts to programs that

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allow seniors to live and be cared for at home.

After the lessons of the 2017 session, I expect the legislature to ensure we have the revenue necessary to prevent cuts to critical services for Montanans. Senate Bill 217 creates an unfunded financial risk for the state that I cannot support.

For these reasons, I veto SB 217.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

MESSAGES FROM THE OTHER HOUSE

Senate amendments to House bills concurred in: 4/18/2019

HB 431, introduced by Z. Brown

HB 640, introduced by S. Morigeau

HB 658, introduced by E. Buttrey

HB 727, introduced by E. Buttrey

Senate amendments to House bill not concurred in: 4/18/2019

HB 660, introduced by J. Krautter

House joint resolutions passed and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence: 4/18/2019

HJ 41, introduced by B. Hamlett

HJ 52, introduced by B. Usher

HJ 56, introduced by B. Usher

HJ 57, introduced by K. Kelker

HJ 61, introduced by S. Berglee

FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS

The following House joint resolutions were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

HJ 41, introduced by B. Hamlett, T. Jacobson, R. Lynch, referred to State Administration.

HJ 52, introduced by B. Usher, referred to Judiciary.

HJ 56, introduced by B. Usher, referred to Judiciary.

HJ 57, introduced by K. Kelker, referred to Judiciary.

HJ 61, introduced by S. Berglee, referred to Judiciary.

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MOTIONS

Majority Leader Thomas moved the **Free** Conference Committee on **SB 346** be dissolved and that the President appoint the same members to a Conference Committee on **SB 346**. Without objection, so ordered.

Majority Leader Thomas moved the Senate suspend the rules and accept **SJ 10**, transmitted from the House after the deadline had passed. The resolution was accepted as follows:

Yeas: Ankney, Bennett, Blasdel, Bogner, Boland, Cohenour, Cuffe, Esp, Fitzpatrick, Flowers, Gauthier, Gillespie, Gross, Kary, Keenan, Lang, MacDonald, McNally, Olszewski, Richmond, Salomon, Sands, Sesso, Small, Smith C, Smith F, Tempel, Thomas, Vance, Webb, Webber, Welborn, Mr President.

Total 33

Nays: Barrett, Ellis, Malek, McClafferty, Pomnichowski.

Total 5

Paired: None.

Excused: Brown, Ellsworth, Fielder, Hinebauch, Hoven, Howard, Jacobson, McConnell, Osmundson, Phillips, Regier, Vuckovich.

Total 12

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee meetings were announced by the committee chairs.

Majority Leader Thomas moved the Senate adjourn until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2019, the eighty-fifth legislative day. Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

MARILYN MILLER
Secretary of the Senate

SCOTT SALES
President of the Senate